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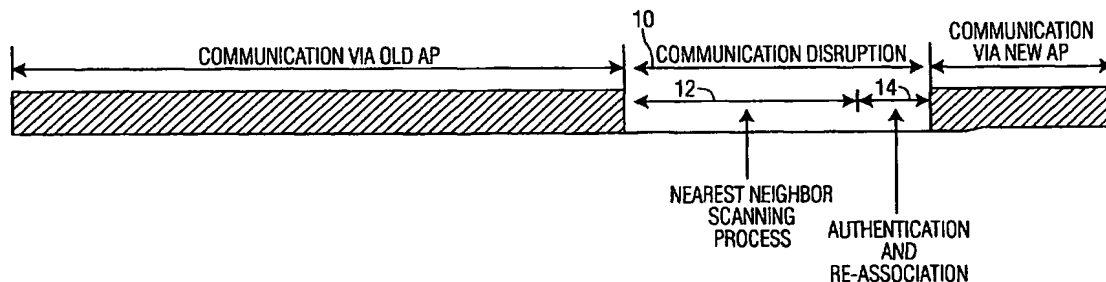
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING A FAST HANDOFF IN A WIRELESS LOCAL AREA NETWORK



(57) Abstract: Disclosed is a system and method for performing a fast channel scan so as to minimize the communication disruption period (10) which occurs during a handoff of a mobile station (STA) (20-23) in a wireless local area network (WLAN) (100). Each mobile station (STA) includes an associated nearest-neighbor table identifying nearest-neighbor APs (14-16) in the network to the AP with which the STA is currently associated. When a STA (20-23) performs a handoff, its nearest-neighbor table is used to perform a prioritized search of those channels of operation included in the table belonging to nearest-neighbor APs (14-16). In this manner, by prioritizing the search to first search the channels of operation belonging to nearest-neighbor APs (14-16), there is a greater likelihood of locating a candidate ap (14-16) to form an association with in less time as compared with the prior art search method of blindly searching each and every operating channel in the network.

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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Y	US 5 838 730 A (CRIPPS PETER K) 17 November 1998 (1998-11-17) column 26, line 45 - line 67 column 27, line 1 - line 28 column 28, line 35 - line 45 column 29, line 31 - column 30, line 61 ----- -/--	10, 13, 15, 17, 18, 23, 26, 28, 30



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- *Z* document member of the same patent family

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